

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment claim 1 is amended to correct a minor informality.

Further, replacement Figures 1, 12-14, and 20 are presented with the present response. Replacement Figures 1, 12-14, and 20 correspond to original Figures 1, 12-14, and 20 but do not include the extra written text describing the shown elements. The new drawings are believed to be more proper under United States practice.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SNS:smi